

SPEECH

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Your Grace, Archbishop Paul, Representatives of the Hellenic Royal Embassy, Mr. Mavrides and Mrs. Mavrides, Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Ligthelm, Chairman of the various Hellenic Organisations, Guests.

It is indeed once again a privilege to be able to extend a hearty welcome to you all this evening. Your support is indeed most appreciated. There is, Ladies and Gentlemen, no need to ramify the purpose of the existence of the Hellenic Community of Alberton, as this factor has been mentioned on numerous occasions. Moreover, you are all aware of our motives which include ecclesiastical, scholastic, philanthropic and cultural activities.

I must, in this instance, extend a hearty welcome to His Grace Archbishop Paul, who has visited us for the first time since his enthronement. At the same time I express my regret that our new Ambassador Mr. Economides, could not be with us this evening although I am indeed very pleased to say that at last Greece has appointed an Ambassador to South Africa, which I am sure we all undoubtedly agree, can only strengthen the already strong bonds that exist between our two countries.

A special word of gratitude must be mentioned to our supporters of the Dance Programme as I am sure you are all aware, they contribute tremendously towards our financial sources which we need in the running of our everyday communal affairs.

I must this evening, also extend a sincere welcome and thank you, to Mr. & Mrs. Jack Steyl. Since the formation of our community I have known them to have missed one function only. Mr. Jack Steyl, our local M.P.C. please accept the sincere gratitude of the Alberton Hellenic Community for your unfailing support, your presence, and the fact that we know that we can always approach you as one of the country's leading citizens, for any guidance we may need is indeed something that this community would not like to be the poorer of.

A sincere word of gratitude and appreciation must be mentioned with regard to Mrs. Mary Tsubsie, the well known personality, for the time and effort she has spent in aiding towards retaining some of our Greek Heritage.

As for the Town Council of Alberton, Mr. Mayor, Please accept our sincere gratitude for all the support you have afforded us in the past.

Meenoor die Burgemeester, ek is oortuig daarvan dat u en u raad met my sal saamstem as ek sê dat hierdie sentrum hom die afgelope jaar bevrys het as 'n noodsaaklikheid vir Alberton.

Punkties deur u raad - die plaaslike skole - verskillende Suid-Afrikaanse kultuur verenigings - en so meer - is van tyd tot tyd hier gehou.

Nat betref die Griekse Gemeenskap van Alberton, is ons bly om te sê dat sommige van ons doelstellings reeds bereik is. Die feit dat ons 'n sentrum het waar ons, ons immigrante kan ontvang was een van die groot behoeftes. Ons doel is om hulle in te lig omtrent hulle nuwe tuisland en sodoende te poog om hulle 'n aanwys vir Suid-Afrika te maak.

Ek wil ook graag my innige en opregte dank uitspreek teenoor u almal hier vanmiddag - vir u ondersteuning tot dusver - en ek wil die hoop uitspreek dat ons steeds hierdie goeie en vriendskaplike manier van samewerking sal handhaaf.

Ek hoop u geniet die aand en ons sien daarna uit om volgende jaar weer hier saam te wees.



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Σεβασμιώτατε Μητροπολίτα.

~~Ἐξοχώτατε Πρεσβυτέρη~~

Κυρίες καὶ Κύριοι.

Αἰσθανόμεθα εὐτυχισμένοι πού ἤλθατε νά τιμήσετε τὸν ἐτήσιον χορὸν μας, καὶ νά ἀπολαύσωμεν μαζί τὴν διασκέδασίν μας, συμφώνως μὲ τὰ Ἑθνικὰ παραδόσεις μας.

Ἐφέτος ὅμως στολίζει τὸν χορὸν μας, μίᾳ ἐξέχοθα Ἑλληνικὴν προσωπικότητα.

Ὁ Σεβασμιώτατος Μητροπολίτης μας, κ. Παῦλος, ὁ ὁποῖος ἐκπροσωπεῖ ὁλόκληρον τὴν λαμπρὰν ὁρᾶσιν τῆς Χριστιανικῆς Ὁρθόδοξης, εἰς τὴν ὁποίαν τὸ ἔθνος μας ὀφείλει τὴν ἐπιβίωσιν του, ἐκ τῶν ἐχθρῶν του, καὶ ἰδίως ἐκ τῆς Τουρκοκρατίας, καὶ μᾶς ἐδραίωσε αἰωνίως τὸν ὑπερ-λαμπρὸν Ὁρθόδοξον Χριστιανικὸν Πνευματισμὸν μας, καὶ τὴν ψυχικὸν μας, πλοῦτον.

Μᾶς δυναμώνει τὰς ἀναμνήσεις μας, πρὸς τὴν πολιτισμένην Ἑλληνικὴν καταγωγὴν μας, ὅπου μᾶς ἐνθαρρύνει διὰ τὸ λαμπρὸν μέλλον μας.

Καὶ ἰδοῦ, αὐτὴ ἡ θαυμασία Κοινοτικὴν μας Ἔσθια βαδίζει γρήγορα πρὸς τὴν ἐξόφλησιν, ἕνεκα πού μᾶς βοηθήσατε, καὶ ὅπου εἰ μᾶς βοηθήσετε ὅλοι.

Τὸ ἐκπαιδευτικὸν ζήτημα, πρὸς ἐκμάνθησιν τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς γλώσσης, καὶ τῆς Ἱστορίας μας, εἰς τὰ παιδιὰ μας, προχωρεῖ σταθερῶς μὲ ἄριστα ἀποτελέσματα.

Θερμῶς εὐχαριστοῦμεν τὸν Ἑλληνικὸν τύπον τῶν ἐδῶ ἐφημερίδων, διὰ τὴν ὑποστήριξιν ὅπου πάντοτε μᾶς κάνει.

Ἐπίσης εὐχαριστῶ τοὺς ἀξιοτίμους καὶ σεβαστοὺς μου συμβούλους, καὶ τὰ μέλη τῆς Κοινότητός μας, ~~μὲ τὰς ὁποίας πάντοτε συμφωνοῦμεν εἰς ὅλα ἄρμονικῶς.~~

Καὶ τώρα εὐχόμεθα καλὴν διασκέδασιν.

Χαίρετισμός ἀπὸ τὸν ἐτήσιον χορὸν.

Ἄλμπερτον 14- 5 - 1969.